

Welcome to our *Pudding Concert*, a Damons' summer tradition! We hope you will enjoy everything we have to offer tonight, beginning with a collection of songs and compositions some of which seem to be connected by a theme: 'GHOSTS AND LOVERS'. We hope that the puddings which follow will not have ghoulish overtones!

It was a lover and his lass SATB
Thomas Morley (1557–1603)

This year is the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth. The words here come from *As you like it*; the music is by Morley, the foremost composer of the English Madrigal School. Only a couple of Elizabethan settings of Shakespearean songs survive today.

Reading: Shakespeare sonnet
Ann Crisp

Rejection SATB
John Gardner (1917–2011)
An unusual piece, written for the 1975 Cork Festival, and clearly inspired by Irish folk rhythms. The text tells a tale of boy meets girl, but the girl is out of his league. Gardner was a prolific composer, perhaps best known (at least to choral singers) for his energetic *Tomorrow shall be my dancing day*, written for St Paul's Cathedral.

I will give my love an apple SSA
arr. Brian Trant
'I will give my love an apple': An English folk riddle in a tradition that goes back more than a thousand years. This one is, however, unusual, as the second verse provides the answers!

This Marriage SATB
Eric Whitacre (b.1970)
This work by the popular American composer – 'just a small and simple gift to my wife on the occasion of our seventh wedding anniversary' (2004) – sets words by the 13th-century Persian poet–mystic Jalal ad-Din Rumi.

Flute & piano ensemble
Andante and Rondo
Franz Doppler (1821–1883)
Doppler composed many flute duets, to be played by him and his brother Karl. His music contains aspects of Russian and Hungarian music.

Reading: A Fairy tale
Patrick Lunt

Bushes and Briars SSAATBB
arr. Donald James

Baritone solo: Andy Scott
Soprano solo: Rachel Meldrum
My Sweetheart's like Venus SATB
arr. Gustav Holst (1874–1934)
A modern arrangement of an English folk-song collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams in 1903, followed by one of Holst's Twelve Welsh Folk Songs (1930–1).

Un bel dì (from *Madame Butterfly*)
Puccini (1858–1924)

Soprano: Coral Ash
From her house overlooking Nagasaki harbour, *Butterfly* describes to her servant Susuki what it will be like when her 'husband', Pinkerton, returns on his American navy ship. She's already been waiting 3 years.

Fain would I change that note TTBB
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)
A 1907 setting of words taken from the Scottish composer/soldier Tobias Hume's First Part of Ayres (1605).

My love dwelt in a Northern land SSAATTBB
Sir Edward Elgar (1857–1934)
Elgar's first published partsong (1890), setting a nostalgic poem by Andrew Lang.

Come live with me SATB
William Sterndale Bennett
(1816–1875)

The words here, 'The Passionate Shepherd to his Love', are by Christopher Marlowe, but the setting is from 1846. Bennett, a neglected figure in the history of English music, was a lifelong friend of Mendelssohn, and was instrumental in bringing the great choral works of J. S. Bach to English audiences.

Flute & piano ensemble
Flower Duet (from 'Lakmé')
Delibes arr Paul Edmund-Davies

Gypsy Song (from 'Carmen')
Bizet arr Paul Edmund-Davies

Reading: Colonel Fazackerly
Malavika Legge

Londonderry Air SATB
arr. Bob Chilcott (b.1955)
It is perhaps odd that such a famously timeless Irish song was in fact written by an English lawyer,

Fred Weatherley, as recently as 1910. The song is still a beautiful one, of course, and receives suitably wistful treatment by the popular English composer, Bob Chilcott.

The Lover's Ghost SATB
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams
Although partly derived from ballads known variously as 'The Lover's Ghost' or 'The Daemon Lover', there are no overt supernatural references in the verses arranged by Vaughan Williams. In a setting of radiant intensity, the returning lover simply declares his love, describes the glorious and golden ships in which his true love will sail and reveals how he has refused a king's daughter 'all for the sake, my love, of thee'.

Reading: Oscar Wilde
Ann Crisp

Oh where art thou dreaming? SATB
Hamish MacCunn (1868–1916)
The Scottish composer Hamish MacCunn was heavily influenced in other works by Wagner. Here, he turns to his Celtic roots, with an 1887 setting of words by the Irish poet, Thomas Moore.

Matona mia cara SATB
Orlande de Lassus (1532–1594)
Lassus, who hailed from Mons (Belgium), spent much of his early working life in Italy, at the Gonzaga and Medici courts. This (rather bawdy) madrigal pokes fun at coarse German mercenaries, with their dodgy Italian and one-track minds...

David Cooke BA (hons), BMus (hons), ALCM

David studied music at Liverpool and Oxford Universities. He specialised first in the early 16th Century keyboard repertoire, and then in the music of the later Middle Ages.

As an instrumentalist, David studied the trombone, piano and harpsichord. He has also performed widely as a player of several early wind instruments.

In recent years David has conducted productions of several operas including The Magic Flute, La Bohème, and Handel's Semele. He is presently also Musical Director of the Wycombe Philharmonic Choir & Orchestra, the Chiltern Hundreds Bach Choir and the Chorleywood Chamber Orchestra.

Flute & piano ensemble

Cat Ford - flute

Rebecca Sheppard - flute

Charlie Ogilvie - piano

Cat, Charlie and Rebecca are young professionals working in London. Rebecca and Cat met at Birmingham University studying Music and played in many ensembles together. In their final year they performed a double flute concerto with Birmingham University Symphony Orchestra. Although an excellent pianist, Charlie's love of music starts with singing. He began as a treble at his local abbey in Hexham and now sings with Ex Cathedra.

THE DAMON SINGERS

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Coral Ash, Helen Baker			
Helen Cooke, Ann Crisp	Alison Davidson	Simon Beattie	Martin Cunningham
Jane Featherstone-Witty	Madeleine Greenhalgh	Windsor Thomas	Patrick Lunt
Penny Fray	Malavika Legge	Chris Turner	John Reuter
Cleone Goddard	Liz Martine		Andy Scott
Bell King	Madeleine Symes		
Rachel Meldrum	Uli Wright		
Janine Page			

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The Damon Singers

directed by David Cooke

PUDDING CONCERT



United Reformed Church, Chesham
7.30 p.m. Saturday 12th July 2014